



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

January 29, 2003

The Honorable Alex Deccio, Chair
Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee
213A Newhouse Building
Post Office Box 40414
Olympia, Washington 98504-0414

Dear Senator Deccio:

I am writing as the chair of the State Board of Health to share the Board's support for Substitute Senate Bill 5060, scheduled for a hearing before your committee on January 29. The Board is already committed to working on the issues that would be addressed by the proposed Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council. The bill would put the Board in a good position to do even more—and the Board would very much appreciate that opportunity.

It is appropriate for the Board, which is mandated to recommend health policy for the state, to staff the committee. The goals of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council are consistent with the Board's past and present priority work areas: children's health and well-being, environmental health, environmental justice, and health disparities. In fact, the Board has recently begun reviewing its primary and secondary school rules (Chapter 246-366 WAC) with the goal of improving public health responses to school indoor air quality concerns.

Thank you for including language in the bill that gives the Board flexibility regarding beginning the work when funding becomes available. SSB 5060 would permit the Board to solicit and spend public and private funds to support the advisory council. If given this assignment, the Board would make every reasonable effort to raise external funds. There is, however, no guarantee of success. If the Board is not successful in finding adequate funding, it might find itself unable to do as thorough a job as we would like.

If SSB 5060 passes, the Board will report to you on the status of funding obtained. Please be assured that even if funding is not received, the Board will pursue the intent of SSB

5060 to the extent possible using existing funding, within the context of required rule revisions and policy priorities.

Thank you for your consideration, and for this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Lake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the "i" in "Linda".

Linda Lake
Chair, Washington State Board of Health

cc: Senator Rosa Franklin
Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee Members
Ms. Ree Sailors, Governor's Office of Health Policy
Mr. Bill White, Department of Health
Ms. Patty Hayes, Department of Health
Washington State Board of Health Members
Don Sloma, State Board of Health